

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 1742

Attorney Docket No. 29195-8173US

Client Ref No. P02-0007

REMARKS

This paper responds to a Final Office Action in this application dated March 9, 2005, and accompanies an R.C.E. under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. When the March 9, 2005 Final Office Action was mailed, claims 1-72 were pending in the application. Claims 6, 17 and 37 have been cancelled and claims 1, 15 and 35 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-36 and 38-42 are currently pending.

The status of the application in light of the Final Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 14-16, 18, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,288,561 to Leedy ("Leedy") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,318,951 to Schmidt et al. ("Schmidt");

(B) Claims 19, 21-34 and 38-72 are allowed; and

(C) Claims 3, 6-7, 9-13, 17, 20 and 37 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form.

A. Response to the Section 103 Rejections

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 6. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8 and 14 all depend from claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 17. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 15 should be withdrawn. The Section 103 rejections of claims 16 and 18, which depend from claim 15, should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Claim 35 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 37. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 35 should be withdrawn. The Section

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103 rejection of claim 36, which depends from claim 35, should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of claim 36.

B. Response to the Indication of Allowed Claims

Claims 19, 21-34 and 38-72 were indicated to be allowed and have not been amended herein.

C. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 6-7, 9-13, 17, 20 and 37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form. Claims 6, 17 and 37 have been cancelled and accordingly the objections to these claims are now moot. The features of these claims have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 15, and 35, respectively. Claims 3, 5, 7 and 9-13 depend from claim 1, which as indicated above is allowable. Accordingly, the objections to these claims should be withdrawn. Claim 20 depends from allowed claim 19 and accordingly the objection to claim 20 should also be withdrawn.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

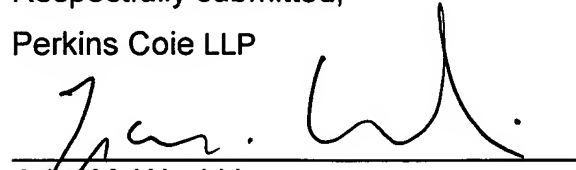
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Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Wechkin', is written over a horizontal line.

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